



# THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL, GILLETT, AKANSAS

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## Early 1800's Return to Arkansas Post

February 23 and 24, historians from Arkansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Mississippi converged at Arkansas Post to recreate a realistic colonial atmosphere reminiscent of the historic settlement of the Post two centuries ago.

Live firing of flintlock and muzzle-loading weapons were held on Saturday, February 23rd to demonstrate the operations of these vital weapons which were used in both military operations and in hunting.

During the weekend, visitors were able to tour a typical eighteen-century campsite as they observed and talked with reenactors demonstrating, rope making and weaving. Guided tours through the old town-site of Arkansas Post were also offered by dedicated volunteers and park staff, which enhanced visitors' knowledge about Arkansas history and how it relates to Arkansas Post National Memorial.

The event provided visitors with a better understanding of the tribulations and conditions of the mid-south's earliest settlement.



**A company encampment provided visitors with a glimpse of daily camp life**

**<more pictures on Page 5>**

## Water Tank Gets New Coat of Interior Paint

Work began on the park's elevated water tank December 1. Hydro-Spec Inc. out of Nevada, Missouri received the contract for the job. Frank McCallie, Water Operator, Hot Springs National Park, was the Contracting Officer's Representative.

Work started with Hydro-Spec personnel arriving on the scene to size up the situation. It went a little slow, as the weather played a major role in the timely completion of the project. Due to a large amount of rain during December and early January, not to mention the cold weather, the sandblasting and painting took a little longer than was expected. Even though work was delayed, the contractors finished under the deadline.

The interior of the elevated tank, interior stem and tank pit area were all sandblasted and painted. The tank's metal ladder was replaced with a stainless steel ladder. The Post's maintenance personnel, with the help of the Resource Management Specialist, replaced the main discharge-valve at the bottom of the tank stem. A new faucet valve was installed in the discharge stem to allow water samples to be taken directly from the tank before the water enters the park's water system. This will be an asset to determining water purity in the entire system.

Work was finally completed on the project January 15. The tank's water was then sampled and sent off to Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). ADH gave the notification on January 18th that the water was suitable for drinking. The pressure tank that had been temporary supplying water to the park was taken off line and the elevated tank was put back into service.

It is good to have the elevated tank in use again as it increases the amount of water in direct reserve to the park fire system. Philip Grove, the park water operator, stated he is also glad the task is completed as he has been in over his head since the beginning of the project. Now if we can just get the taste right, we'll have it made.

## Superintendent's Scribblin's



Recently, the enormity of the 300 years of history at Arkansas Post became very real for me when I was asked to serve on the Vicksburg Campaign Study, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee and the Revolutionary War Study. At the same time, the park and I have been dealing with the preparations to open the Osotouy Unit of the park to visitors and to prepare for the spring surge of school groups visiting the park. While I like to stay busy, there is a limit to my abilities to keep up with things.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not complaining or looking for sympathy, rather I am searching for volunteers interested in working with the park. Much of the "work" we need done involves collecting information, developing bibliographies and managing the information once we collect it. We can use virtually anyone who is willing to volunteer his or her time to help increase our reference materials. We need historic photographs, copies of old magazines, textbooks and historic documents. Volunteers do not even have to work at the park – they are perfectly welcome to conduct the research from the comfort of their own living room. Of course a computer with Internet capabilities is desirable and would greatly increase the scope of our searching, but just reading and taking a few notes would be helpful as well.

In the middle of this push for historical information, part of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial project is to develop teachers' materials (workbooks, activity guidelines, etc.) that relate to the period from 1686 to 1835. Guess what, that is a big chunk of the history of Arkansas Post! So Park Rangers Steve Edwards and Taronna Bennett have been busy developing a workbook that will address most of these goals. I have agreed to serve on the Speakers' Bureau developed by the Arkansas Department of Heritage, which means that I will be available to speak to civic organizations and schools regarding the Colonial period of Arkansas. We have also committed to assisting with the presentation of teachers' workshops around the state to prepare them to teach about the Louisiana Purchase this fall in anticipation of the Bicentennial in 2003. I expect to have some PowerPoint programs ready to present in the near future and would be willing to share copies of these presentations when they are finished.

As if these projects are not enough to keep us busy, we are also in the midst of redoing the park orientation film. This job has been contracted through our Harper's Ferry Office and Signature Productions will begin scripting and shooting the 15-minute film this spring and summer. Hopefully it will be delivered in March 2003 – just in time for the Bicentennial celebration.

The overwhelming part is, this whole discussion so far has dealt with the cultural resources of the Post and that's not even half of the resources we have here. The natural resource programs are also in full gear – deer study, alligator study, herpotafauna study, vegetation study, exotic plant control, ant study, forest ecology study, etc. And lest we forget, park operations include maintenance of all the grounds, trails, roads, buildings and the archeological sites.

So things are happening at Arkansas Post and we could sure use some help! If you'd like to take part in any aspect of the park programs, please let me know and we'll put you to work. We want it to be fun and we'll do everything we can to make it that way for you.

*Edward E. Wood, Jr.*

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### ***Desiring To Volunteer?***

Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made an immeasurable contribution to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. Today's volunteers are active, dynamic, creative individuals of all ages who possess the skills, desire, patience and time to accomplish a wide variety of tasks.



Volunteers are accepted from the public without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. For more information about volunteering at Arkansas Post National Memorial, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 870-548-2207 or by writing to Arkansas Post National Memorial; Attn: VIP Coordinator, 1741 Old Post Road, Gillett, Arkansas 72055

# Resource Management Update

Archeologists have recently conducted another dig at the Osotouy Unit. Participants included Dr. John House, lead archeologist, and Jamie Lockhart, GIS specialist, both of whom are with the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Several volunteers including students from universities also participated and were integral components in the completion of this project. Magnetometer, resistivity, and ground digging were some of the techniques used in this survey in order to provide data, which once analyzed will be incorporated into an ever-expanding database. This was one in a series of small digs that has been conducted over the last few years. Small digs were required because of logistical, personnel, and cost restraints. Nonetheless, vital information has been gathered that when combined with previous data provides another piece of the puzzle thereby providing information to management for decision-making purposes.

Two studies, (1) An Assessment of Tick-borne disease and (2) Tick Seasonality and Abundance and White-tail Habitat Utilization, have now been completed at the Memorial Unit. The data from these studies has been analyzed and has provided pertinent background information for management. The tick study provided information about what the frequency of tick-borne diseases and estimates of tick densities and their seasonality according to vegetation types. The deer study furnished information on what impacts deer were having on vegetation by vegetative type, what vegetation exists within the park, and where those impacts occur.

A new study, White-Tailed Deer Movement and Habitat use at Arkansas Post National Memorial, has been initiated to determine the link, among tick-borne diseases, tick densities and seasonality by vegetation type, and the vegetative impacts of white-tailed deer. In addition, it will also provide deer herd health information such as the occurrence of respiratory diseases and whether or not deer are vectors of tick-borne diseases.



The objectives of this study are to document white-tailed deer movement and habitat use to assess deer health, and to link deer movements and habitat use to previous studies of deer herbivory and tick abundance. White tailed deer movements and habitat use will be assessed using GIS/GPS deer collars. Herd health will be determined by the testing of ticks taken from the deer as well as blood samples taken from live deer. The information gained from this study, like the mini-archeological digs at Osotouy, will produce another piece of the puzzle for management as well as increase the park's baseline datasets - vital information for informed scientifically credible decisions.

***Kevin Eads, Resource Management Specialist***

## Historic Weapons

Steve Edwards, Park Guide recently attended the National Park Service Historic Weapons training course at Camp Blanding near Starke, Florida. This two-week safety course focused on the methods used to safely allow small arms and artillery demonstrations within National Park administered areas. This course is offered every two years and is a requirement for any park that plans to conduct black powder demonstrations. The course is divided into 18th and 19th centuries. Steve attended the 18th Century course and is planning on returning in two years for the 19th Century course. After the course, Steve stated "I would definitely be interested in beginning a Historic Weapons program at Arkansas Post National Memorial in the near future".



Steve along with cannon crew in an artillery demonstration



## “Miss Ellie”

In honor of Women’s History Month, Arkansas Post National Memorial presented “The Influences Women had on the War Between the States” on March 9. The one hour program was presented at the park visitor center by Ellen M. DiMaggio known as “Miss Ellie”.

Miss Ellie has been member of the ninth Arkansas reenacting regiment for over six years, but her study of women’s roles began about four years ago at a flea market when she stumbled upon the autobiography of Belle Boyd, a Confederate spy. Since then, she has researched forgotten women in history who made a difference. Her work is currently being compiled into a printed “Honor Roll” of women of the Civil War.



Notable women Miss Ellie discussed were: **Belle Boyd**, the glamorous confederate spy who was twice jailed in Washington for her contributions to the Confederacy. **Sarah Edmonds**, who was a Canadian girl who ran to America and enlisted as a Union soldier and disguised herself as a man. **Mary Bickerdyke** a middle-aged widow from Ohio who was thrust into doing her part and as a result of her tenacity and soft hands as a nurse, she became known to the soldiers as “Mother Bickerdyke”. She became so known to the Union officers that General Grant once commented, “she outranks me”.

Mrs. Ellen DiMaggio’s vast knowledge of women’s roles during the Civil War era helped increased the visitors knowledge of notable and ordinary women.

## Spirit of Volunteerism Alive At Arkansas Post National Memorial

On April 6, volunteers donated their time and talents at Arkansas Post by removing litter from around the park lake, trails and assisting with the cleaning of a Civil War cannon.

In exchange for their hard work, volunteers received tee shirts and had an opportunity to hear a park guide describe the significance of the site. This year’s theme was “Our Parks, Our Past, Our Pride.” The Post was one of more than 85 sites in 18 states that participated this year in Park Day co-sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). The purpose of Park Day is to help local communities maintain and restore their Civil War related battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. To learn more about CWPT log on [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).

The staff at Arkansas Post would like to say thanks to all of the volunteers for their dedication and hard work. See you next year!



**Maintenance worker Della Jamison directs volunteers (left to right) Margie Gray, Tobe Wood, Andy Wood, Tosha Gray (behind the right wheel) and Ryan Clawson on how to wash down the Civil War cannon display**



**Philip Grove, Park Maintenance instructs volunteer Brady Hozthauer on how to operate the backpack blower during the cleanup of the Post Bayou Nature Trail**

## Colonial Encampment Photos



**Reenactors demonstrate weaving**



**Reenactor explains the technique of a flint-lock weapon**



**Reenactor shows the technique of cooking while at camp**



**Reenactor introduce visitors to items that are sold at a trading post**



**Reenactor provided visitors with a glimpse of daily camp life**



**Reenactor Ed Williams demonstrates the rapid fire of a flint-lock weapon**





*Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission*

**Brigadier General James Miller**, the first governor of Arkansas Territory, was born April 25, 1776, in New Hampshire, and raised on a farm. Admitted to the New Hampshire bar in 1803, he practiced law in Greenfield. Having entered the army as a major in 1808, he was breveted colonel in 1812 for distinguished service against the British at

Brownstown, and made brigadier general in 1814 for outstanding performance at Lundy's Lane. His gallantry at Chippewa, Nuagara, and Fort Erie won him a gold medal from Congress. He resigned from the army June 1, 1819, shortly after his appointment as governor. An "Arkansas Farmer" described him in 1821 as "a steady, substantial man."

Governor Miller reached the territory December the 26th, 1819, and at once assumed his duties as governor, relieving Crittenden, who up to this time had efficiently discharged the hard and exacting duties of a governor of a new territory.

Governor Miller's arrival was with pomp and color befitting a governor. Judge Wittier, of Hempstead County, was an eye witness of the governor's arrival and described it as follows: "General James Miller, the hero of Lundy's Lane, who had been appointed by President Monroe as governor, arrived at Arkansas Post to enter upon his duties of office. He came up the river in a splendidly fitted up barge with large and well furnished cabins, having the conveniences of modern steamboats. This boat had been fitted up, manned and furnished by the United States Government expressly for his use. On the after part of the cabin, and on both sides, were inscribed the name Arkansas in large gilt letters. It had a tall mast from which floated a magnificent banner with the word 'Arkansas' in the center, and the words "I'll try, sir," the motto of the regiment he commanded at Lundy's Lane, interspread in several places".

With the arrival of Governor Miller and his party, interest began to grow and center around Arkansas Post. New arrivals daily lawyers, doctors, and mechanics. The retinue of the Governor with his many friends, together with the officers of justice, added importance to the growing town of Arkansas Post. Miller was an honest and capable officeholder, but he simply did not like being in Arkansas.

He seems to have stayed out of territorial politics, but he worked reasonably hard at civil matters and on the management of Indian affairs. Shortly after arriving, however, he wrote Secretary of War Calhoun to inquire about the availability of the military position he had just resigned. Miller had also left his wife in New Hampshire, which suggests that he viewed his new career as a kind of military campaign. In his letters too, he criticized territorial society, particularly the relaxed manners of the French settlers at Arkansas Post and their enchant for dancing and gambling. He was also plagued with illness. For nearly four months in the summer of 1820, the governor was sick with an "ague and fever," known locally as "seasoning," and the experience made him anxious to leave the territory during the following summer. With President Monroe's permission, Miller returned to New Hampshire in April, 1821, and only returned in November. He left again in June, 1823, and remained away from the post until finally resigning in December 1824. All in all, Miller was actually in Arkansas less than half the time he was governor of the territory.

**Bolton Charles B. *Arkansas 1800-1860; Remote and Restless*, pp. 26-28, 1998**

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## FAREWELL



It has only been a year since I transferred from Everglades National Park to Arkansas Post as the Lead Park Ranger for the division of Interpretation. Starting May 5, 2002, I will be transferring to Central High National Historic Site in Little Rock, Arkansas in the division of Interpretation. I would like to take this opportunity and say thanks to the staff of Arkansas Post for giving me the opportunity to work at the "Birth Place" of Arkansas. Arkansas Post is full of rich and diverse history and has something for everyone to appreciate, along with its scenic beauty. I have had the pleasure of working with a wonderful staff and dedicated volunteers, and I will truly miss you all.

The next time you are in Little Rock, stop by and visit. Central High NHS Visitor Center is located at 14th and Park Street. The park is dedicated to interpreting, preserving and discovering the history of the 1957 crisis and its context.

***Tarona Armstrong Bennett***

# Bookstore Browsings-New Items



## **Dangerous Wildlife in the Southeast** **F. Lynne Bachleda**

This is an excellent reference book that easily tells which creatures and plants can cause you harm and when, why, and how to avoid them. It includes what medical risks they present and how best to respond to a hostile encounter. Bees, bears, snakes, mosquitoes, poison ivy and alligators are just some of the subjects covered. A fully illustrated field guide, a natural history narrative, and an outdoor emergency medical manual are all in one great book.

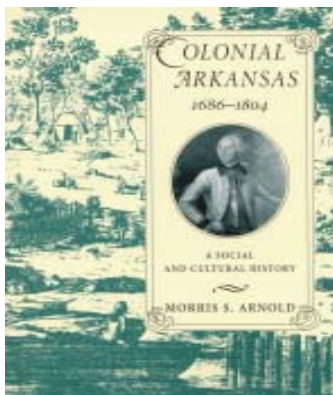
## **Bird Sounds** **Barry Kent MacKay**

Here you will find a thorough and engaging examination of the variety of sounds birds make, from the familiar singing of songbirds, to the hammering of woodpeckers and to the harsh cracklings of crows. It explores the latest research and describes both native and exotic bird behavior.

## **A Golden Guide Series Books** **St. Martin's Press**

Golden Guide series books are great pocket field books that engage the reader in a variety of subject matters through factual information and they include outstanding illustrations. The reader can gain expert knowledge from an easy-to-read format. New titles at Arkansas Post include **Butterflies and Moths**, **Pond Life**, **Fishing**, **Weather**, and **North American Indian Arts**.

## Ranger Recommendation



### **Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804 A Social and Cultural History** **Morris S. Arnold**

Before Arkansas was acquired by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, it was claimed first by France, then later by Spain. Both of these cultures profoundly influenced the development of the region and its inhabitants, as evidenced in the many cultural artifacts that constitute the social, economic, and political history of colonial Arkansas.

*Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804* is an engaging and eminently readable story of our state's colonial period. Subjects covered include architecture, education, agriculture, amusements and diversions of the period, and the Europeans' social structures. Judge Morris S. Arnold explores and describes the relations between settlers and the indigenous Indian tribes, the early military and its activities, and the legal traditions observed by both the Spanish and French governments.

This lively and illuminating study is sure to remain the definitive history of the state's colonial period and will be equally embraced by scholars, historians, and curious Arkansans eager to develop a fuller understanding of their rich and varied heritage.

*For further information on Eastern National or Arkansas Post NM Bookstore  
you can visit [www.eParks.com](http://www.eParks.com) or contact the park at (870) 548-2207*

**Steve Edwards, Park Guide and Eastern National Coordinator**

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS.....***

June 15,.....Fishing Derby from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
meet at park visitor center. Contact the park for more details.

September 21-22 .....Civil War Encampment. For further information or  
to participate as a volunteer please contact the park for more details.

Arkansas Post Visitor Center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Park  
information, exhibits, park film and educational sales items are  
available there.

Arkansas Post National Memorial grounds including the picnic area  
are open from 7:00 a.m. to dusk every day.



**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior**

**ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
1741 Old Post Road  
Gillett, Arkansas 72055**

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